

Developed to Serve Wartime Need

1928 - Cattle pasture near the corner of Hollister and Fairview Avenues is first used as a landing strip. Airport is established and continues to operate privately through 1940.

SEPTEMBER 1939 - World War II begins in Europe as Germany invades Poland.

FEBRUARY 1941 - Santa Barbara voters approve \$149,000 bond to purchase the Airport property and upgrade the facility. Bond funds are used to purchase several parcels totaling approximately 580 acres; purchase price \$104,037.

Civil Aeronautics Authority, the predecessor to the FAA, provides funds for improvements at Santa Barbara Airport. The goal of the federal cost-sharing program is to establish 250 airports nationwide as a national defense precaution.

JUNE 1941 - Airport groundbreaking is celebrated and construction of three 4000' x 500' runways and 5 taxi strips begins. Original \$533,400 federal award is increased to \$902,400 by mid-summer.

DECEMBER 7, 1941 - Japan attacks Pearl Harbor marking the United States' entry into World War II.

FEBRUARY 1942 - City enters into an agreement with United Transport Corporation (later United Airlines) to construct the Airline Terminal. United operates jointly with the Marine Corps at Santa Barbara through WW II.

Ellwood oil facilities are shelled by a Japanese submarine on February 23rd.

JUNE 1942 - City leases Airport to the Navy Marine Corps to fill an urgent wartime need for training and service facilities for Marine Air Groups. Marine Corps acquires additional lands and begins construction of Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara.

DECEMBER 1942 - Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara is commissioned and first used to train Marine Corps aviators.

1943-1945 - Marines receive advanced flight training at Marine Corps Air Station Santa Barbara and are deployed for combat assignments in the Pacific.

MAY 7, 1945 - Germany surrenders.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1945 - Japan surrenders.

MAY 1946 - Marine Corps hands the operation of the Airport back to the City. An interim operating permit allows the City to offer the services of a civilian airport.

JUNE 1949 - Marine Corps relinquishes their leasehold interest on the 580 acre Airport property and gives a quit claim deed to 346 adjacent acres, not previously owned by the City.



Airshow at Goleta, 1933



Flight of 7 Avenger aircraft over the Channel Islands



Aerial of Santa Barbara Airport, Isla Vista & Goleta, 1938



Santa Barbara Mission & Marine cross, 1943



VMTB 143 in front of Santa Barbara Airline Terminal, 1943



Marine Corps Air Station ramp activity at Hangar Two



Construction at Santa Barbara Airport, 1941



Major Joseph J. Foss awarded Medal of Honor, 1943



Corsair Crew



Marine Corps Air Station, February 1945



Hollister, Old Town Goleta and the Santa Barbara Airport, 1946

"It is my earnest hope, indeed the hope of all mankind, that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past, a world founded upon faith and understanding, a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish for freedom, tolerance and justice." General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Allied Commander of South-West Pacific (1945)